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18-Year Term for Diplomat Caught Smuggling Heroin

By Fred Ferretti
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

Squirming in his seat and clenching his hands as he heard himself described by the prosecutor as "completely amoral," an "arch-criminal" and a "dope peddler," Salvador Pardo-Bolland, former Mexican Ambassador to Bolivia, was sentenced yesterday in Federal Court to 18 years in prison and fined \$40,000 for his role in a conspiracy to smuggle 134 pounds of heroin worth \$13.5 million into this country.

Stiff sentences and fines were also given to Pardo-Bolland's two co-conspirators, Rene Bruchon, 48, a French national, and Juan Carlo Arizti, 61, a former member of the Uruguayan State Department. Bruchon was given 15 years, and Arizti 10; each was fined \$40,000.

The three were arrested here five months ago by Federal narcotics agents, capping a three-year investigation of a smuggling ring by United States, Canadian and French authorities.

Part of the confiscated haul of 134 pounds of heroin was found in four suitcases checked in a Pennsylvania Station baggage room, the rest in a Montreal railroad station.

Assistant U. S. Attorney William M. Tendy told Judge Joseph M. Cannella that the three men had been part of a network in which the "diplomatic pouch was the most effective and prolific means of bringing narcotics into this country." He said they had schemed to bring in 62 kilos of heroin—"enough narcotics to supply every known addict in the U. S.—60,000 addicts—for three months."



Associated Press
Salvador Pardo-Bolland

on Feb. 22, the three were called part of a Cosa Nostra operation. Yesterday, Mr. Tendy said, "He (Pardo-Bolland) was involved with the French-Corsican organization since 1956." He referred to the Mafia-like secret organization called the Union Corse.

French authorities said Pardo-Bolland made his contacts and perhaps received packets of raw heroin while visiting churches. They said that early in February he went to France from Holland, and then to Cannes, where he met and arranged for the shipment with Arizti and Bruchon.

Pardo-Bolland flew to Paris with luggage weighing 128 pounds. It had weighed 55 pounds in Cannes. He checked his bags at an airline terminal. The next day Arizti flew from Paris to Montreal with 176 pounds of baggage. Pardo-Bolland left Paris a short while later.

He discarded the bags in Montreal, replaced a good part of the heroin with bags of flour, and let them be shipped to Penn Station, where they were picked up by Federal agents in the possession of Bruchon.

In contrast to his behavior

when he attempted to kick newsmen at his February arraignment, Pardo-Bolland was quiet yesterday. He sat with shoulders stooped, and clenched and unclenched his hands.

Judge Cannella denied pleas for bail.